WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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Deudraeth Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

REPORT FOR

1952.

DEUDRAETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1952.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Deudraeth Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

The following is the Health Report for the year ended 31st December, 1952. In the interim period from when Dr. Evan Williams relinquished the post until I assumed it, Dr. Gapper the County Medical Officer of Health acted as District Medical Officer of Health and I wish to thank him for his help at all times.

The Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate gave a population figure of 6,858, a fall of 117 from the corresponding period in the previous year. The number of live births was 83 i.e. 18 fewer than in 1951. The number of deaths was 122 (121 in 1951). The declining birth rate and the migration, therefore, are continuing the trend towards depopulation.

There was an increase of 3 in the number of notifications of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but there were no new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (4 in 1951). In this disease early diagnosis is important for shortening the length and the success of treatment and for prevention of spread. It is, therefore, a matter of concern that the response of the general public in Penrhyndeudraeth, was so poor when the Mass Radiography Unit visited the area. Only 134 adults took advantage of the service. During this year the Unit first visited Llanbedr and Harlech.

Regarding the other notifiable infectious diseases, there was a large epidemic of measles and a smaller one of scarlet fever. There were no notified cases of food poisoning.

In view of the general increase in gastro-enteritic and food poisoning cases over the country as a whole, the Council should consider instituting a Clean Food Campaign.

Progress in housing continues, but the general situation leaves no room for complacency. In view of the present high cost of construction I should like to draw the attention of the Council to the Croydon Experiment, where suitable older types of houses were bought by the Housing Authority, repaired and provided with Sanitary facilities and amenities that brought them up to a satisfactory standard. The cost of this is far less than that of a new council house, consequently they can be let at a lower rent. In suitable cases provision is made for financial assistance to Local Authorities under the Housing Act.

The Council has a very satisfactory scheme of refuse disposal in operation but in some areas there is still a disinclination by a few people to co-operate, such individualism occasionally giving rise to a potential source of nuisance.

I wish to thank Mr. Morris Jones for his co-operation in the compilation of this report.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

EVAN RICHARDS.
DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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SECTION A. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Rural District in acres	75,493
Rateable value	£22,784.
Population (Registrar General's figures)	6,858.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£84.
Number of inhabited houses (according to the rate books) at the end of year.	2,309

COMPARABILITY FACTORS.

Births	1.13
Deaths	0.86.

VITAL STATISTICS

Nett Births (Live and still)	84
Births (live)	83
Births)still)	1

LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION 12.10.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.
Total	43	40
Legitimate	41	35
Illegitimate	2	5

Illegitimate birth rate (Percentage of Total live births) = 8.43 %

DEATHS

Total number 122

Males 60 Females 62

Rate per 1,000 population 17.79.

1951 figures 17.35.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONEYEAR

Total 1

	Males	Females.
Total	1	-
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live births)	1.20.
1951 figures	39.60
Deaths of Legitimate infants (Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	1.20.
Deaths of illegitimate infants (Mortality per 1,000 live births)	Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS.

	Male	Females
Total	1	-
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy - Nil.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Total - 18

Rate per 1,000 population - 2.62.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Total - 3

Rate per 1,000 population - 0.44.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

One Medical Officer of Health.
One Sanitary Inspector.

(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Water analysis (Chemical) carried out by Mr. Harold Lowe, Public Analyst, Chester.
Water analysis (Bacteriological) and milk examination for cleanliness and keeping quality by the Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth.

(3) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

One Ambulance stationed at Penrhyndeudraeth.

(4) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Penrhyndeudraeth - held fortnightly in the Aelwyd Building.
Harlech - held monthly at the Free Library.
Trawsfynydd - held monthly at the Congregational Chapel Vestry.

(5) ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

Held at the Out-Patients' Department, Memorial Hospital, Blaenau Ffestiniog, every two weeks.

(6) ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Held fortnightly at The Clinic, Wynnes Road, Blaenau Ffestiniog.

(7) TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

Held every week at the Memorial Hospital, Blaenau Ffestiniog.

(8) DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young children is carried out at the Primary Schools.

(9) HOSPITALS.

There is no hospital within the district. Patients may be admitted to the Blaenau Ffestiniog Memorial Hospital situated nearby.

(10) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year = 321.

Scarlet Fever	11
Bacillary Dysentry	-
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	303
Infantile Paralysis	-
Pneumonia	1
Erysipelas	1

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES

Pulmonary — Total 17 — Males - 7 Females - 10

Non-Pulmonary — Total Nil — Males - Females -

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS — Total 3

Pulmonary — Males- 2 Females - 1

Non-Pulmonary — Total Nil

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952 IN AGE GROUPS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1								
2								
5								
10								
15								
20	1	2						
25	1	3						
35	1	2				1		
45	1	2						
55	2	1			1			
65					1			
75	1							

1 Male P.T. aged 70 years not notified.

1 Male P.T. aged 76 years not notified.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1952

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
Cancer Stomach	1	1
" Lung	2	-
" Breast	-	2
" Other sites	5	7
Vascular lesions of nervious system	11	24
Coronary disease, angina	7	1
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1
Other heart diseases	9	14
Other circulatory disease	2	1
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	1	3
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	-
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	4	2
Suicide	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	3	-
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
	60	62

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action was found necessary during 1952.

GENERAL

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the district. 474 persons being X-rayed.

Centres	Under 15 years M.	Under 15 years F.	Over 15 years M.	Over 15 years F.	Total M.	Total F.
Penrhyn-deudraeth	3	1	42	92	45	93
Llanbedr	29	30	38	48	67	78
Harlech	-	-	89	102	89	102
TOTAL	32	31	169	242	201	273

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GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION.

SEWERAGE.

Improvements have been completed in the construction of new Sewers and Sewage Disposal Plants at Trawsfynydd, Talsarnau and Garreg Village. Garreg in the Parish of Llanfrothen has been provided for the first time with a Sewerage Scheme.

A part of an extension scheme for the improvement of sewage disposal and extension of sewers at Harlech has been approved and will be proceeded with in 1953. The remainder of the scheme will be under consideration later.

A Sewerage Scheme for Llanfair and Llandanwg is under construction. Houses in both Parishes have already connected and converted dry privies into Water Closets.

Villages and Hamlets that are considered and schemes prepared for sewering are Gwynfryn in the Parish of Llanbedr, Ynys and Glanywern in the Parish of Talsarnau and Maentwrog village. A scheme for improving and enlarging the sewerage system is under consideration for Gellilydan in the Parish of Maentwrog.

WATER.

Schemes for supplementing and improving the water supplies have been approved for Trawsfynydd Parish, Gellilydan and Maentwrog.

The work of extending the Harlech Water Mains so as to serve isolated properties has been undertaken and constructing a new storage tank together with laying a new Water Main at Croesor has commenced.

Improvements to the control and filtration at Talsarnau water works is to be undertaken and the extension of the water main to Soar approved.

The supplementing of the supply at Harlech and Llanfair is receiving the consideration of the Council.

Regular bateriological analysis of samples of water of all supplies throughout the District is undertaken. There is not a hamlet within the District consisting of 6 or more houses that is not supplied with water by the Council.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public Conveniences constructed and maintained by the Council have been provided at Penrhyndeudraeth, Harlech, Llanbedr and Trawsfynydd. Enlarging and improving the conveniences at Maentwrog is urgently necessary. Plans for providing conveniences at Talsarnau have been approved. Additional conveniences are necessary in the Parishes of Penrhyndeudraeth and Llandanwg.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This work has now been undertaken by the Council's workmen and has proved, after 2 years experience to be very satisfactory and a great improvement on the previous system by contracting and with open carts. A weekly collection is made throughout the District.

/HOUSING.

HOUSING.

The shortage of housing accommodation is still serious although there is an improvement in some parts of the District. Very few owners apply for grant to improve existing houses so as to extend the life period another 30 years.

The Deudraeth Council are building 58 houses at Penrhyndeudraeth, 28 of which were completed and occupied during 1952. The total number of houses built by the Council up to the end of 1952 is 163. In addition, the Council maintain 13 requisitioned houses. Tenders for the erection of 16 houses at Harlech has been accepted and approved.

38 houses were inspected and reported upon under the Public Health Act, 1936, and 10 under the Housing Acts.

RODENT CONTROL.

Rodent control is undertaken by the Council jointly with the Ffestiniog Urban District Council. A full time Officer is in employment to cover the two Districts.

The operator regularly inspects and treats the refuse sites within the Districts and the sewers and sewage disposal plants are treated twice every year. A survey of private premises as well as agricultural properties is also undertaken respecting infestation.

DISINFECTING.

Disinfecting of infected premises undertaken by fumigation and spraying. As there is no steam disinfecting plant available within the County, bedding is destroyed and the owners partly compensated by the Council.

Signed Morris Jones

Sanitary Inspector.

23rd June, 1953.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
1	2	3	4	5
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	10	25	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	11	22	3	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	2	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	23	49	5	Nil.

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars. 1.	Number of cases in which defects were found. Found 2.	Remedied 3.	Referred To HM Inspector. 4.	Referred By HM Inspector. 5.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. 6.
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2			
Overcrowding (S.2.)	Nil				
Unreasonable temp. (S.3.)	Nil				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	Nil				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	Nil				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	Nil				
(a) insufficient	Nil				
(b) unsuitable or defective				2	
(c) not separate for sexes	Nil				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	Nil				
TOTAL	2	2		2	

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